

Dr. K. Bhaskaran.

Ram Niwas, V. S. Ram Marg,
New Hyderabad, Lucknow.
India.

13th Feb '59.

Dear Professor Lederberg,

I wish to thank you for your valuable comments on my work on genetic recombination in Vibrio cholerae. I am indeed sorry it was not possible for me to write to you earlier.

I note your argument that 'phage 129' may not be a phage at all but a bacteriocin instead. While this possibility is being investigated I find that proteolytic enzymes like trypsin do not inhibit the appearance of plaques. Even if 'phage 129' is a bacteriocin, it is perhaps not a protein like the colicines. Furthermore, 'phage 129' shows the excessive dose phenomenon of Boyd (1951), as plaques do not appear when the lysogenic inoculum is of a high order (10^9 to 10^{10} cells) in cross matching tests with indicator strains.

I appreciate your criticism that it would be incorrect to apply the F symbol to recombining strains of V. cholerae. This was indeed a slip on my part and I expect to designate these strains differently in the paper to be published in the May issue of the Indian Journal of Medical Research.

Work is progressing satisfactorily and I will be writing to you in due course about it. I will be very grateful to you if you will kindly include me in your mailing list and make available to me your publications in bacterial genetics.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

K. Bhaskaran.
13.2.59.

Prof. J. Lederberg,
Stanford University,
U.S.A.